

20030513.qrp v02_n919.qrl.20030513

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 19:03:13 EDT
From: qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU
To: "Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion" <qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: QRP-L digest 2919

QRP-L Digest 2919

Topics covered in this issue include:

- 1) [150489] New QRP WARC-Speed DX Challenge!
by "Ward Silver" <hwardsil@centurytel.net>
- 2) [150490] Re: RFC First Time Solar Power in the Field
by Tayloe Dan-P26412 <Dan.Tayloe@motorola.com>
- 3) [150491] Re: NIMH Shelf Life?
by "Nick Kennedy" <nkennedy@tcainet.net>
- 4) [150492] Re: [DX-NEWS] New QRP WARC-Speed DX Challenge!
by "Ward Silver" <hwardsil@centurytel.net>
- 5) [150493] Re: New QRP WARC-Speed DX Challenge!
by Thom LaCosta <baltimoremd@baltimoremd.com>
- 6) [150494] Re: New QRP WARC-Speed DX Challenge!
by "Ward Silver" <hwardsil@centurytel.net>
- 7) [150495] WTT--K2 for Sony Crusoe laptop
by "Doc K0EVZ" <dock0evz@earthlink.net>
- 8) [150496] SSB QRP on 20m?
by Brian Short <bshort4@cox.net>
- 9) [150497] Norcal 40A + 5-turn pot - shoulda done it long ago.....
by John Harper AE5X <ae5x@qsl.net>
- 10) [150498] Computer Remote Tuning Knob Possibilities...
by "Michael Melland" <w9wis@charter.net>
- 11) [150499] Re: New QRP WARC-Speed DX Challenge!
by Thom LaCosta <baltimoremd@baltimoremd.com>
- 12) [150500] re: Ground Radials
by Bill Stietenroth <k5zty@juno.com>
- 13) [150501] Ground Radial Systems
by "James R. Duffey" <JamesDuffey@comcast.net>
- 14) [150502] Re: SSB QRP on 20m?
by "pschweit" <pschweit@mninter.net>
- 15) [150503] Speed Challenge Dx CONTEST
by hamjoel@juno.com
- 16) [150504] How to clean?
by "Jerry Felts" <nr5a@rap.midco.net>
- 17) [150505] ssb on 20 meters
by hamjoel@juno.com
- 18) [150506] Re: How to clean?
by Pete Burbank <plburbank@earthlink.net>
- 19) [150507] Re: How to clean?

by "Mike Yetsko" <myetsko@insydesw.com>
20) [150508] SuSE GNU License
by Chuck Adams <k7qo@earthlink.net>
21) [150509] Re: How to clean?
by David Hinerman <WD8CIV@worldnet.att.net>
22) [150510] Bad Bands???
by "Trevor Jacobs" <kg6cyn@softhome.net>
23) [150511] Re: How to clean?
by "K5KW" <k5kw@onrampok.com>
24) [150512] Re: Dayton Weather Report
by Dan Puckett <wd8aau@woh.rr.com>
25) [150513] Re: RFC First Time Solar Power in the Field
by Tim Groat <tcgroat@earthlink.net>
26) [150514] Re: NIMH Shelf Life?
by Steven Weber <kd1jv@moose.ncia.net>
27) [150515] Re: How to clean?
by "Leon Heller" <leon_heller@hotmail.com>
28) [150516] Special Event Station K2BSA/8 16 - 18 May
by Dan Puckett <wd8aau@woh.rr.com>
29) [150517] Re: How to clean?
by "Mike Yetsko" <myetsko@insydesw.com>
30) [150518] Re: Bad Bands???
by Bruce Muscolino <w6toy@erols.com>
31) [150519] Re: Norcal 40A + 5-turn pot - shoulda done it long ago.....
by Jimmy Lee <jrlaudio@bellsouth.net>
32) [150520] Re: SuSE GNU License
by Jeffrey L Greer <wd4et@juno.com>
33) [150521] Re: Antenna Tuner Step 1
by Bill Coleman <aa4lr@arrl.net>
34) [150522] Re: How to clean?
by Brad Thompson <Brad.Thompson@valley.net>
35) [150523] Re: SSB QRP on 20m?
by Alex <kr1st@amsat.org>
36) [150524] PSpice Tutorials
by Jon Iza <iapizloj@bi.ehu.es>
37) [150525] Re: RF Probe
by "Noyce, Bill" <william.noyce@hp.com>
38) [150526] Re: SSB QRP on 20m?
by Frank Brickley <brickley@pobox.com>
39) [150527] hoot owls
by DK3RED@t-online.de (Ingo Meyer DK3RED)
40) [150528] Re: How to clean?
by "Lee Mairs" <lmairs@direcway.com>
41) [150529] Re: SSB QRP on 20m?
by Bob Nielsen <nielsen@oz.net>
42) [150530] SMK-1 mod for TX range & chirp
by "Noyce, Bill" <william.noyce@hp.com>
43) [150531] Re: How to clean?

- by "Mark Andrews" <KE4IOF@KE4IOF.com>
- 44) [150532] Re: Ground Radial Systems
by "George, W5YR" <w5yr@att.net>
- 45) [150533] Re: Prices of gear Was: [Safety]
by Alex <kr1st@amsat.org>
- 46) [150534] Re: NIMH Shelf Life? (W3VFN Response)
by "Dennis Payton" <dpayton@fwi.com>
- 47) [150535] Re: Dayton Weather Report and a Warning about a couple of blokes.
by "Doug Hendricks" <ki6ds@dph.dpol.net>
- 48) [150536] Re: SMK-1 mod for TX range & chirp
by NB6M@aol.com
- 49) [150537] RE: Bad Bands???
- by "Andreas Junge - N6NU" <n6nu@arrl.net>
- 50) [150538] THE ANTENNA IS COMING DOWN
by hamjoel@juno.com
- 51) [150539] re: Ground Radials
by Michael Babineau <michael.babineau@sympatico.ca>
- 52) [150540] re: Ground Radial Systems
by Michael Babineau <michael.babineau@sympatico.ca>
- 53) [150541] Re: SuSE Linux for Free
by Michael Babineau <michael.babineau@sympatico.ca>
- 54) [150542] Re: Ground Radials
by Bruce Muscolino <w6toy@erols.com>
- 55) [150543] Re: Ground Radial Systems
by Bruce Muscolino <w6toy@erols.com>
- 56) [150544] Re: SuSE Linux for Free
by "Pastor-kc1di" <elbc2@gwi.net>
- 57) [150545] Re: [NJQRP] AS-2259 NVIS Antennas Available New (NOT Cheap)
by Ray Sills <raysills@1stconnect.com>
- 58) [150546] Re: NIMH Shelf Life? (W3VFN Response)
by psschwarz@kellnet.com
- 59) [150547] Toroids at Dayton
by "w8diz" <w8diz@fpqrp.com>
- 60) [150548] QRP - Is My Analogy Correct
by "Tom Curtola" <tcurtola@rogers.com>
- 61) [150549] Best Route from Amarillo to Dallas (Arlington)
by "Doug Hendricks" <ki6ds@dph.dpol.net>

Date: Mon, 12 May 2003 15:59:22 -0700
From: "Ward Silver" <hwardsil@centurytel.net>
To: <dx-news@pro-usa.net>, <dx-list@egroups.com>, <qrp-1@lehigh.edu>,
<wwdxc-1@eskimo.com>, <bernie@dailydx.com>, <n4aa@dxmag.com>,
Subject: [150489] New QRP WARC-Speed DX Challenge!
Message-ID: <01b601c318da\$20e2af90\$3d0a11ac@seattleu.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;

charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Is the hiss on 10-meters getting you down? Are you longing for those days of endless DX? Has your beam not moved in a week?

Here's a remedy...K7SS and N0AX, along with the Western Washington DX Club, and ably assisted by the Amazing Bruce Horn WA7BNM announce:

The QRP WARC-Speed DX Challenge!

The objective of this program is to work as many DXCC Entities as possible using QRP on the WARC bands (30, 17, and 12-meters) between 0000Z June 1, 2003 and 2359Z May 31, 2004. QRP is defined as 5 watts output on digital (any data-transfer protocol) or CW and 10 watts PEP on SSB. (If you want to work QRP on AM or FM, be our guest...)

Certificates will be awarded for

- the top three totals from each CQ Zone in each of the categories below
- for working 100 entities on any single band.

This program recognizes achievement by zone - so you'll be competing against your peers!

Each month, results will be posted in the following categories:

17-meter CW, 17-meter Phone, 17-meter Digital, 17-meter Total
12-meter CW, 12-meter Phone, 12-meter Digital, 12-meter Total
30-meter CW, 30-meter Digital
Total CW, Total Phone, Total Digital, Total Overall

Enter as many or as few categories as you like. The Web site will just report what you enter each month - you're responsible for keeping the total up-to-date.

Here's the fun part - no QSL cards, no cumbersome paperwork! At the end of each month, WA7BNM will post a score submittal form on the 3830 Score Submittal Web page at <http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>. You enter your totals and - as if by magic - the updated totals will be posted to the 3830 contest score reflector and CQ-contest reflectors (and forwarded to the DX and QRP reflectors, as well). At the end of the year, you'll be able to download your nice certificate!

The honor system rules! No padding your totals with the ones that you "almost" worked. No calling somebody at 100 watts (or more) and then asking for them to "stand by for my QRP signal".

Let me answer the first question - no, this is not a contest! (Contests, by gentleman's agreement, are not conducted on the WARC bands.) It is no more a contest than the DXCC single-band awards or the DXCC DeSoto Cup.

Competitive, yes, contest, no.

If you'd like to sponsor your own certificate or prize, by all means do so - just send me an email and I'll post the list of awards to the reflectors. Challenge the other guys in the local club - have your own competition using wire antennas or mobile or on odd-numbered days or ??? How many do you think you can work in a year? The WWDXC sponsored a one-year QRP DX competition and K7RI worked 247 DXCC entities. 247!!! It can be done - just get busy.

After the end of each month, log on to the Web site <http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/> and dump in your totals. Amaze your friends! Heck - amaze yourself!

73, Ward N0AX
n0ax@arrl.net

Date: Mon, 12 May 2003 16:21:38 -0700
From: Tayloe Dan-P26412 <Dan.Tayloe@motorola.com>
To: "'qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU'" <qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU>
Cc: "'schoon@amgt.com'" <schoon@amgt.com>
Subject: [150490] Re: RFC First Time Solar Power in the Field
Message-ID: <7FD24C15A06DD511BF9E00D0B73E995206FBFF7C@az33exm05.corp.mot.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"

I have picked up a small collection of solar panels over the last few years and have used them with both gel cells and AA type NiMH battery packs.

I once took one of my 5w solar panels and hooked it up directly across a 5AH gel cell for use during a QRP field contest. I also took along a voltmeter to keep track of the battery voltage to see how things were doing. My "5w" solar panel actual seems to put out about 175 ma of charging current into a 13.8v battery, which is actually more like 2.5w.

I am not a huge contester, so my transmit/receive duty cycle (40 mA receive, ~ 0.9A transmit) is probably not what some folks are, but I quickly discovered that 2.5W of charging current into a battery that was mostly used for receiving was causing the battery voltage to soar. I was quite alarmed to find my battery voltage up to 16v(!). I had way too much charging current.

Not having a regulator, I tried several methods of slowing the charging rate. I first tried placing the array flat so I no longer had a optimal angle to the sun. That was not good enough. I tried placing the array partially in the shade. That

worked, but it is surprising how fast shade seems to move when you are busy trying to do something else.

I eventually gave up and simply connected the panel when the battery voltage started to sag, and disconnected it when the voltage got to 14v.

I find that a small array delivering about 70 to 80 ma is much more in line with my particular operating style. I now use this array to trickle charge my 1800 mAH AA NiMH battery pack and no longer have to keep on top of things.

- Dan, N7VE

Date: Mon, 12 May 2003 18:34:52 -0700
From: "Nick Kennedy" <nkennedy@tcainternet.com>
To: "Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion" <qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [150491] Re: NIMH Shelf Life?
Message-ID: <004301c318ef\$d9d485e0\$0400000a@wa5bdu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

There's also an article on NiMH batteries in QST, September 1994. It's on the members only page.

Didn't discuss shelf life, but did mention that they self-discharge in only 15 days.

They hold 40% more energy per volume unit than Nicads.

Voltage a bit higher than NiCD, but generally they are interchangeable with the Nicads.

Internal resistance is higher with NiMH. This is not generally a problem unless you pull high amperage--say 2 or 3 amps from a AA.

Not very tolerant of overcharging. (I think Nicads are tolerant.)

72--Nick, WA5BDU

Date: Mon, 12 May 2003 16:34:49 -0700
From: "Ward Silver" <hwardsil@centurytel.net>
To: "Dennis McAlpine" <dennis.mcalpine@verizon.net>,
 <dx-news@pro-usa.net>, <dx-list@egroups.com>, <qrp-l@lehigh.edu>,
Subject: [150492] Re: [DX-NEWS] New QRP WARC-Speed DX Challenge!
Message-ID: <01e101c318df\$142ec950\$3d0a11ac@seattleu.edu>

MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Nope - just find others with similarly extraordinary handicaps and tell them you'll beat 'em like a drum.

12 meters is just on probation and will be allowed out of its box again in the fall.

73, Ward N0AX

----- Original Message -----

From: "Dennis McAlpine" <dennis.mcalpine@verizon.net>
To: "Ward Silver" <hwardsil@centurytel.net>; <dx-news@pro-usa.net>;
<dx-list@egroups.com>; <qrp-1@lehigh.edu>; <wwdxc-1@eskimo.com>;
<bernie@dailydx.com>; <n4aa@dxmag.com>; <aq474@cleveland.Freenet.Edu>;
<w1aw@arrl.org>
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2003 4:20 PM
Subject: Re: [DX-NEWS] New QRP WARC-Speed DX Challenge!

> Now, this is a greaqt idea to equalize everyone. But, it is well known
> that, because I have decided to try and stay married for a while, I am
> limited to just having a little Butternut vetical. Not only is it harder
to
> work stations using this antenna, using 5 watts is almost impossible.
> Shouldn't we antenna disadvantaged operators receive a dispensation and be
> allowed to use 100w to partially offset this extraordinary hanicap? BTW,
is
> there a 12 meters anymore or did we give it back to the natives?
>
> Dennis, K2SX

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: "Ward Silver" <hwardsil@centurytel.net>
> To: <dx-news@pro-usa.net>; <dx-list@egroups.com>; <qrp-1@lehigh.edu>;
> <wwdxc-1@eskimo.com>; <bernie@dailydx.com>; <n4aa@dxmag.com>;
> <aq474@cleveland.Freenet.Edu>; <w1aw@arrl.org>
> Sent: Monday, May 12, 2003 6:59 PM
> Subject: [DX-NEWS] New QRP WARC-Speed DX Challenge!

>
>
> > Is the hiss on 10-meters getting you down? Are you longing for those
days
> > of endless DX? Has your beam not moved in a week?
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> > and ably assisted by the Amazing Bruce Horn WA7BNM announce:
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 your
 > > friends! Heck - amaze yourself!
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 > > 73, Ward NOAX
 > > n0ax@arrl.net
 > >
 > > -----
 > > Subscribe/unsubscribe, feedback, FAQ, problems, etc
 > > DX-NEWS <http://njdx.org/dx-news>
 > > DX-CHAT: <http://njdx.org/dx-chat>
 > > To post a message, DX NEWS items only, dx-news@pro-usa.net
 > > Archives <http://www.mail-archive.com/dx-news%40pro-usa.net>
 > > -----
 > >
 >
 >
 >

 Date: Mon, 12 May 2003 19:53:41 -0400 (EDT)
 From: Thom LaCosta <baltimoremd@baltimoremd.com>
 To: Ward Silver <hwardsil@centurytel.net>
 Cc: Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion <qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU>

Subject: [150493] Re: New QRP WARC-Speed DX Challenge!
Message-ID: <20030512195042.J25466-100000@unix1.vhost.min.net>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

On Mon, 12 May 2003, Ward Silver wrote:

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> a contest than the DXCC single-band awards or the DXCC DeSoto Cup.
> Competitive, yes, contest, no.

I think that you're playing jail house lawyer on this..."certificates",
"compete" sure sound like a contest to me.

Thom

baltimoremd@baltimoremd.com	Thom LaCosta K3HRN Webmaster
http://www.baltimoremd.com/	Baltimore's Home Page
http://www.baltimorehon.com/	Home of the Baltimore Lexicon
http://www.zerobeat.net	Home of The QRP Web Ring and DrakeList
http://www.tlchost.net	Web Hosting as low as \$3.49/month

Date: Mon, 12 May 2003 17:02:28 -0700
From: "Ward Silver" <hwardsil@centurytel.net>
To: "Thom LaCosta" <baltimoremd@baltimoremd.com>
Cc: "Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion" <qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [150494] Re: New QRP WARC-Speed DX Challenge!
Message-ID: <024f01c318e2\$f1587e90\$3d0a11ac@seattleu.edu>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

No more than the yearly DXCC Challenge program is a contest. I consider a
contest - and I believe the accepted definition as well - to be a focused
activity that is concentrated within a very few dates where activity is
significantly increased over "background" levels. This is spread out over a

year. We intentionally spread it out so that it would not cause a lot of bumping and jostling.

I'm sure you'll hardly notice it for the most part.

73, Ward N0AX

----- Original Message -----

From: "Thom LaCosta" <baltimoremd@baltimoremd.com>

To: "Ward Silver" <hwardsil@centurytel.net>

Cc: "Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion" <qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU>

Sent: Monday, May 12, 2003 4:53 PM

Subject: Re: New QRP WARC-Speed DX Challenge!

> On Mon, 12 May 2003, Ward Silver wrote:

> >

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>

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> "compete" sure sound like a contest to me.

>

> Thom

>

> baltimoremd@baltimoremd.com

> <http://www.baltimoremd.com/>

> <http://www.baltimorehon.com/>

> <http://www.zerobeat.net>

DrakeList

> <http://www.tlchost.net>

>

>

Thom LaCosta K3HRN Webmaster

Baltimore's Home Page

Home of the Baltimore Lexicon

Home of The QRP Web Ring and

Web Hosting as low as \$3.49/month

Date: Mon, 12 May 2003 19:25:3 -0500
From: "Doc K0EVZ" <dock0evz@earthlink.net>
To: "qrp-l reflector" <qrp-l@lehigh.edu>,
"Elecrafft " <elecrafft@mailman.qth.net>
Cc: "doc k0evz earthlink" <dock0evz@earthlink.net>
Subject: [150495] WTT--K2 for Sony Crusoe laptop
Message-ID: <41200352130253534@earthlink.net>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII

Gang:

Several have written, offering/suggesting other computers. Actually I am looking for the tiny SONY VAI0 Crusoe with the 6.9" screen. The computer I am searching for is quite tiny and light weight, features I really need. Fingers crossed [g].

73,
--Doc/K0EVZ

Date: Mon, 12 May 2003 19:54:14 -0400
From: Brian Short <bshort4@cox.net>
To: Low Discussion <qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [150496] SSB QRP on 20m?
Message-ID: <08D63D12-84D5-11D7-8E7C-00306543B616@cox.net>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII; format=flowed
Mime-Version: 1.0 (Apple Message framework v552)
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

I was out in the desert trying to finish some work before the heat sets in. Mid 90's this week, but 100's are just around the corner and the AC unit's fan won't start :(

Anyway, I was playing with the FT-817 on 20m SSB today and worked a couple mobile stations while trying out my 5 element 20m monobander recently installed (actually put that up QRPTTF weekend instead).

Is there a QRP SSB frequency on 20m I should try?

It was sure fun playing with the '817 today and I can't hardly wait to go to the mountains in 2 weeks.

I usually operate CW (only), but QRP SSB was kinda fun, so I'd appreciate any pointers others may offer.

Brian

--

See my web page: <http://www.k7on.com>

Date: Mon, 12 May 2003 20:57:05 -0400
From: John Harper AE5X <ae5x@qsl.net>
To: QRP-L <qrp-l@lehigh.edu>
Subject: [150497] Norcal 40A + 5-turn pot - shoulda done it long ago.....
Message-ID: <000a01c318ea\$93320a90\$6401a8c0@JOHN>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1
Content-transfer-encoding: 8BIT

I recently asked here on the list about anyone's experience installing a 3-, 5- and 10-turn pot in their Norcal 40. Dennis WB8WTU replied with a very detailed email recommending a 5-turn Bournes pot from Mouser. After exchanging a few emails with Dennis, I ordered the pot, received it a few days later and installed it. I've now been operating the rig for a few days and, man, what a difference! I've had my NC40 for several years now and am kicking myself for not having done this sooner. The improvement in "tunability" is amazing. I'll be posting a photo of how the pot fits into the rig on my website tomorrow.

For those interested, here are the relevant Mouser part numbers & prices from Mouser:

3 turn Bourns 10K ohm - 652-3543S-1-103 at \$22.62
5 turn Bourns 10K ohm - 652-3545S-1-103 at \$23.30

No, they ain't cheap and a lesser rig may not be worth it but the NC40 is a great rig that I believe warrants the expense. Despite being larger than the single-turn pot, the 5T mounts into the rig with no interference to or from any other components. Details/photos on website ma ana.

Thanks for the recommendation Dennis.

John Harper AE5X
Outdoor QRP & 80-Meter DXing: <http://www.ae5x.com>

Date: Mon, 12 May 2003 20:02:56 -0500
From: "Michael Melland" <w9wis@charter.net>
To: "Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion" <qrp-l@lehigh.edu>,
<njqrp@njqrp.org>
Subject: [150498] Computer Remote Tuning Knob Possibilities...
Message-ID: <001201c318eb\$64153b00\$3f20be42@computer>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

I thought I'd mention this ... although it might be old hat. The Icom PCR-1000 mailing list had mentioned this device and how great it was having a real knob on the software defined and controlled PCR. I bought one of the knobs (\$45) and hooked it up to my computer and it works great for tuning and more of the PCR-1000!

Got me to thinking.... with the cool little USB knob sitting there next to my Omni V.9 with it's 301 remote knob.... I bet those with a Pegasus could use it as a remote knob and more.... you can assign any function to the knobs features that a key stroke can do. Think of the possibilities....for other radios.

Check it out: <http://www.griffintechology.com/products/powermate/index.html>

Mike, W9WIS

--
Michael Melland, W9WIS
Winneconne, Wisconsin USA EN54pc
qrp-l #1656 - qrparki # 9875 - iparc #252
ars #1075 - <http://webpages.charter.net/w9wis/>

Date: Mon, 12 May 2003 21:10:09 -0400 (EDT)
From: Thom LaCosta <baltimoremd@baltimoremd.com>
To: Ward Silver <hwardsil@centurytel.net>
Cc: Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion <qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU>

Subject: [150499] Re: New QRP WARC-Speed DX Challenge!
Message-ID: <20030512210704.W28026-100000@unix1.vhost.min.net>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

On Mon, 12 May 2003, Ward Silver wrote:

> significantly increased over "background" levels. This is spread out over a
> year. We intentionally spread it out so that it would not cause a lot of
> bumping and jostling.

I can see we are miles apart...so I'm not going to fan the fires here.
I just hope the participants don't decide to use the calling frequencies
for the "non contest" competitive, award giving event for the entire year.

>
> I'm sure you'll hardly notice it for the most part.

I'll let ya know if I do.

Thom

baltimoremd@baltimoremd.com
<http://www.baltimoremd.com/>
<http://www.baltimorehon.com/>
<http://www.zerobeat.net>
<http://www.tlchost.net>

Thom LaCosta K3HRN Webmaster
Baltimore's Home Page
Home of the Baltimore Lexicon
Home of The QRP Web Ring and DrakeList
Web Hosting as low as \$3.49/month

Date: Mon, 12 May 2003 20:33:35 -0500
From: Bill Stietenroth <k5zty@juno.com>
To: qrp-l@lehigh.edu
Subject: [150500] re: Ground Radials
Message-ID: <20030512.203337.-1526151.1.k5zty@juno.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

You can determine how many ground radials you need by measuring the feed point resistance as you add radials. The theoretical feed point resistance of a 1/4 wave vertical is about 35 ohms, If you are reading 70 ohms or something the difference is ground loss. About 1/2 of your power is going into the ground. Adding radials will bring the resistance down. When you get to about 120 radials you will approach the 35 ohm reading.

How much loss are you willing to put up with? Add radials til you are satisfied. They should be at least as long as the antenna is tall, but

the longer the better out to two or three wavelengths. Tuned radials don't stay tuned when they lay on the ground. Like laying your yagi on the ground and trying to tune it.

Elevated verticals dance to a whole different set of rules.

Bill, K5ZTY
Houston, TX

Date: Mon, 12 May 2003 19:59:44 -0600
From: "James R. Duffey" <JamesDuffey@comcast.net>
To: qrp-1@lehigh.edu
Subject: [150501] Ground Radial Systems
Message-ID: <BAE5ADB0.69F4%JamesDuffey@comcast.net>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: 7BIT

Brent - It sounds like you have a good radial system planned for your vertical.

Insulated or not insulated wire does not matter for radials. If you have a surplus outlet around, they often sell copper wire by the pound which is usually the cheapest way to buy it. The next cheapest way is to buy household wire at a builders center like Lowe's or Home Depot. Diameter doesn't matter much either, although the really skinny stuff can become difficult to handle.

Radials are most effective when they are spaced 0.02 to 0.05 wavelengths apart (depending on the ground conductivity) at the circumference of the radial field. Any larger spacing and the currents induced in the ground have dissipated and they won't be collected. Any closer and you are gathering ground current that could have been gathered with a single radial.

So a good way to space radials is to pick the band you operate the most on and space the radials 0.02 to 0.05 wavelengths at the circumference of the radial field. This will accommodate the variation in length of radials in a rectangular back yard. Don't worry if you have some short and some long radials. If you use the above rule of thumb, they will be effective.

The easiest way to put radials down is to use a motorized sidewalk grass edger. You can rent them. If you don't want to do that, you can use a manual edger. Small children are a big help.

I hope that this helps. - Dr. Megacycle KK6MC/5

James R. Duffey KK6MC/5

Cedar Crest NM 87009 DM65

Date: Mon, 12 May 2003 21:12:30 -0500
From: "pschweit" <pschweit@mninter.net>
To: <bshort4@cox.net>,
 "Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion" <qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [150502] Re: SSB QRP on 20m?
Message-ID: <005201c318f5\$1f3188e0\$c4e7add1@oemcomputer>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

well well

I hope there is hardline between the rig and the antenna. 14.285 is supposed to be the "qrp" calling freq.

Anything between 14.240 and 14.290 is good, try to get yourself a heil hc4 element in your headset and you will be there.

Wait for a contest,, it will be really fun,

de ka0pgq
rob

----- Original Message -----

From: Brian Short <bshort4@cox.net>
To: Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion <qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU>
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2003 6:54 PM
Subject: SSB QRP on 20m?

>
> I was out in the desert trying to finish some work before
> the heat sets in. Mid 90's this week, but 100's are just
> around the corner and the AC unit's fan won't start :(
>
> Anyway, I was playing with the FT-817 on 20m SSB
> today and worked a couple mobile stations while trying
> out my 5 element 20m monobander recently installed
> (actually put that up QRPTTF weekend instead).
>
> Is there a QRP SSB frequency on 20m I should try?
>
> It was sure fun playing with the '817 today and I can't

> hardly wait to go to the mountains in 2 weeks.
>
> I usually operate CW (only), but QRP SSB was kinda
> fun, so I'd appreciate any pointers others may offer.
>
> Brian
>
> --
> See my web page: <http://www.k7on.com>
>

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 02:15:43 GMT
From: hamjoel@juno.com
To: qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU, fpqrp-1@mpna.com
Subject: [150503] Speed Challenge Dx CONTEST
Message-ID: <20030512.191545.2786.2824@webmail08.lax.unttd.com>
Content-Type: text/plain

Certificates will be awarded for

> > - the top three totals from each CQ Zone in each of the categories
below
> > - for working 100 entities on any single band.
> >
> > This program recognizes achievement by zone - so you'll be competing
> against
> > your peers!
TO DENY THIS IS A CONTEST U GOTTA BE IN TOTAL DENIAL... COMON GUYS IF U GONNA
DO SUMTHIN OWN UP TO IT...
AWARDS, COMPETITION, NO CONTEST... GET REAL
GEEEEEEZZZZZZ THE BAND GEAUX SOUR FOR A WEEK AND FOLK GEAUX NUTS...
u BEST STAY OFF THE WARC BANDS... this is a total no-brainer...what u guys
been smokin or drinkin, maybe the rest of us might want some... sounds as strong
as my cajun mama's kick-a-poo juice...:-)
I kneaux, it's april first, right...

KE1LA JOEL
IN MAINE
sippin and observing

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Date: Mon, 12 May 2003 20:20:08 -0600
From: "Jerry Felts" <nr5a@rap.midco.net>
To: "Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion" <qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [150504] How to clean?
Message-ID: <[001201c318f6\\$2cee9300\\$3865dc18@jerryhc0zfj19d](mailto:001201c318f6$2cee9300$3865dc18@jerryhc0zfj19d)>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Was digging in my closet, actually cleaning it out! Really, believe it or not.

Anyway I found a Heathkit HD-1250 Grid Dip Meter I didn't even know I had. Upon opening it up its all there except the manual, looks to be in great shape except for one small tiny thing. On the top lid there was black foam which has pretty much rotted. I peeled it out but its left a sticky mess, also some of this guez stuff is on the coils.

Any idea on how to clean it out and get rid of it?

Thanks

Jerry - NR5A

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 02:32:45 GMT
From: hamjoel@juno.com
To: qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU, fpqrp-l@mpna.com
Subject: [150505] ssb on 20 meters
Message-ID: <20030512.193318.2786.2907@webmail08.lax.unttd.com>
Content-Type: text/plain

Brian

I think u should find that with ur monobander, u will have no problems operating anywhere in the 20 meter band...

My operating has indicated as u geaux higher 20 -10 meters the ssb gets easier and easier... on 20m with a beam just above the roof of the house in la. using an argonaut 509,(2 watts out) 100feet of rg58u coax I worked everything i heard, called cq and in general operated like any one would with a 100 watt rig on twenty , fifteen, ten.

As u probably already kneaux or have heard ... u make or break the station with ur antenna... and it sounds like u got the antenna and could geaux milliwatts without a problem, well maybe a watt on ssb... have fun... ssb is fun and just requires a good antenna for consistant qro like operation....
ke1la joel

KE1LA JOEL
IN MAINE
FREEZIN

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Date: Mon, 12 May 2003 22:32:18 -0400
From: Pete Burbank <plburbank@earthlink.net>
To: nr5a@rap.midco.net,
"Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion" <qrp-1@lehigh.edu>
Subject: [150506] Re: How to clean?
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.0.20030512222840.00a34da0@Earthlink.net>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

Jerry and gang,
Plain old turpentine works pretty well on some adhesives like masking tape.
Just take your time.
73
Pete NV4V

At 10:20 PM 5/12/2003, Jerry Felts wrote:
>Was digging in my closet, actually cleaning it out! Really, believe it or
>not.
>
>Anyway I found a Heathkit HD-1250 Grid Dip Meter I didn't even know I had.
>Upon opening it up its all there except the manual, looks to be in great
>shape except for one small tiny thing. On the top lid there was black foam
>which has pretty much rotted. I peeled it out but its left a sticky mess,
>also some of this guey stuff is on the coils.
>
>Any idea on how to clean it out and get rid of it?
>
>Thanks

>
>Jerry - NR5A

Date: Mon, 12 May 2003 22:41:30 -0400
From: "Mike Yetsko" <myetsko@insydesw.com>
To: <nr5a@rap.midco.net>,
"Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion" <qrp-l@lehigh.edu>
Subject: [150507] Re: How to clean?
Message-ID: <01e901c318f9\$2b37b3e0\$0200a8c0@charter.net>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

> Was digging in my closet, actually cleaning it out! Really, believe it
> or
> not.
>
> Anyway I found a Heathkit HD-1250 Grid Dip Meter I didn't even know I
had.
> Upon opening it up its all there except the manual, looks to be in great
> shape except for one small tiny thing. On the top lid there was black
foam
> which has pretty much rotted. I peeled it out but its left a sticky
mess,
> also some of this guey stuff is on the coils.
>
> Any idea on how to clean it out and get rid of it?
>
> Thanks
>
> Jerry - NR5A

I have the same thing, but I caught my black foam AS it was going,
not after, and it didn't get in the coils.

Assuming you've tried the standard like alcohol, you might also try
the stuff they sell to take up carpet tape from floors. It's a pretty
robust solvent on the goo, but doesn't seem to hurt wood finishes.
But always test it first! The stuff I got was called "Goof Off"

Oh, it has some nasty stuff in it. Xylene for one.

Mike

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 02:43:26 +0100
From: Chuck Adams <k7qo@earthlink.net>
To: qrp-1@lehigh.edu
Subject: [150508] SuSE GNU License
Message-ID: <5.2.1.1.0.20030513024227.00b136a0@smtp.earthlink.net>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

I checked all the CDs and DVDs and they all have the permission to copy and distribute according to the GNU License so you will not see me in cell block C or on the group W bench. :-)

FYI

Chuck Adams K7QO k7qo@earthlink.net
<http://www.qsl.net/k7qo> CP-60

Date: Mon, 12 May 2003 23:10:55 -0400
From: David Hinerman <WD8CIV@worldnet.att.net>
To: qrp-1@lehigh.edu
Subject: [150509] Re: How to clean?
Message-ID: <5.1.1.6.1.20030512230946.00b2ada0@postoffice.worldnet.att.net>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

At 08:20 PM 5/12/2003 -0600, you wrote:

>Was digging in my closet, actually cleaning it out! Really, believe it or
>not.

>

>Anyway I found a Heathkit HD-1250 Grid Dip Meter I didn't even know I had.
>Upon opening it up its all there except the manual, looks to be in great
>shape except for one small tiny thing. On the top lid there was black foam
>which has pretty much rotted. I peeled it out but its left a sticky mess,
>also some of this gey stuff is on the coils.

>

>Any idea on how to clean it out and get rid of it?

Jerry,

Yeah - baby oil!

I've used WD-40 and 3-In-1 oil for that, too, but baby oil smells better.

Dave

Dave Hinerman
WD8CIV@att.net

Date: Mon, 12 May 2003 20:27:54 -0700
From: "Trevor Jacobs" <kg6cyn@softhome.net>
To: "Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion" <qrp-1@lehigh.edu>
Subject: [150510] Bad Bands???
Message-ID: <007c01c318ff\$a501edc0\$2998b2d1@tjacobs>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Hey Gang,

Been reading all the doom and gloom about how bad the bands are, and almost didn't get on tonight. Fired up the K1 for a listen and 20 meters seems to be doing pretty good. Worked 3 stations tonight. Not DX, but some real nice QSO's. Worked Bud K5BNZ in Las Cruces, NM for a nice long rag chew, then worked Larry KCOM in Branson, MO (they still don't have an airport, Hi!) for another nice QSO, and then chatted with Carl K5HK/MM on the container ship with his SST heading back to LAX from KH6 land. They get in about 7AM to the port. He's got 3 more runs to do, then he gets to go home for a while, so take a listen for him. One thing I noticed tonight is that the band (20 meters) seemed very stable. More so than I've heard it lately. Anyway, just thought I'd mention this since there's no propagation right now ;-)

73's Trev KG6CYN
<http://www.qsl.net/kg6cyn>

Date: Mon, 12 May 2003 22:55:16 -0500
From: "K5KW" <k5kw@onrampok.com>
To: qrp-1@lehigh.edu
Subject: [150511] Re: How to clean?
Message-ID: <002601c31903\$77ba4c00\$195258d8@21byq>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

----- Original Message -----

From: "Jerry Felts" <nr5a@rap.midco.net>
To: "Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion" <qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU>
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2003 9:20 PM
. On the top lid there was black foam
> which has pretty much rotted. I peeled it out but its left a sticky mess,
> also some of this guey stuff is on the coils.
>
> Any idea on how to clean it out and get rid of it?

Jerry,

I have an old Heath HD-1250 dipper myself that was in storage for decades. It had the exact same problem of the foam padding turning to goo. I used denatured alcohol to clean up the coils and may have used some acetone to clean the metal case of the dipper. Be careful with the acetone around the plastic, though. Don't get either chemical on the dial.
Good luck.

Don, K5KW
Fort Gibson, Oklahoma

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 00:18:39 -0400
From: Dan Puckett <wd8aau@woh.rr.com>
To: Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion <qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [150512] Re: Dayton Weather Report
Message-ID: <3EC0721F.31C7400F@woh.rr.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Doug Hendricks wrote:

>

> Guys, its that time of year again. Dan, how about your annual Dayton
> Weather report? I will not be able to be there this year, but send my best
> wishes to all of you. May you have 3 days of sunshine and bargains. Please
> enjoy the QRP activities, and have fun both at Dayton and FDIW. I really do
> need a Dayton Wx rpt., grin. 72, Doug

Hey Doug,

Sorry to take so long getting back to you. As we discussed at
Atlanticon, I wanted
to do a lot of research before issuing my Dayton Climatological Report
for
HamVention weekend. I checked several sources. Weighed the evidence.
Here is a
quick run down.

1. Ground Hog's Day. As most of North America knows, the ground hog
can predict
the onset of spring. On a specific day in February a ground hog named
Phil, in
Pennsylvania, sticks its head out of its borrow and gives its verdict.
A lesser
known ground hog named Dayton Dave also stuck his head out. Dave pretty
much
agreed with Phil. The only thing that caused some discussion was the
fact that
Dave had an umbrella.

2. Woolly worms. I don't know about the rest of the world, but here in
Ohio we
have a thing called a woolly worm. A woolly worm is just that. Its a
kind of
worm that is covered with woolly hair. A woolly worm is tan in color
with
a band of brown in the middle. The story goes that the wider that brown
band,
the more severe the winter. I looked for a woolly worm for several
days,
until I remembered it isn't winter.

3. History. I asked my 92 year old dad what the weather was like for
the last 75
years, or so. Apparently this week in history has had everything but a
volcano erupt or a hurricane.

4. The Weather Service. Not NOAA weather. Air Force weather.
Wright-Patterson
Air Force Base, here in Dayton, has its own weather office. They have a
web site
at <http://weather.wpafb.af.mil> . Check it out.

5. Bad Juju. This weekend the Boy Scouts are having a campout for
15,000 - 16,000
Scouts. Very Bad Juju.

Conclusions: The regularly scheduled thunder storm is on for Thursday
evening.

Even though the Scouts are camping, the rain on Friday will be widely
scattered.

Saturday and Sunday will be dry. The whole weekend will be cool and
cloudy.

Lows in the 50's. Highs in the upper 60's or lower 70's. That's
outside,

of course. Inside the arena will be in the upper 80's. And humid.

So, there you have it, Doug. What's happen' in Dayton this year. Sorry
to hear

you're not making it this year. Is Gentleman Jim making the trip?

I guess I'll see you when I see you,

73

Dan "Bash Bits"
WD8AAU

Date: Mon, 12 May 2003 22:47:12 -0600
From: Tim Groat <tcgroat@earthlink.net>
To: grp-1@lehigh.edu
Subject: [150513] Re: RFC First Time Solar Power in the Field
Message-ID: <5.1.1.6.2.20030512221905.00a1eaf0@mail.earthlink.net>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

I have a few comments.

First, a 10W panel connected to a 2A-Hr battery is equivalent to a 100W
panel connected to a medium-sized 20A-Hr SLA battery, or a 1KW array to a

large (size 8D) 200A-Hr RV battery. That charge rate will return 100% of the battery capacity with about 3 hours of midday sunshine. I wouldn't go that high without a charge controller, especially with any kind of "maintenance free" battery (sealed, gel cell, etc.). Even moderate over-charging quickly eats up battery life when you can't replace the water lost to over-charging.

Second, 12.0V is a bit low for float charging batteries. You'll need something between 13.5V and 13.8V, depending on the battery maker's recommendations (that's 2.25V to 2.30V per cell). You can use an adjustable regulator (such as an LM350) to get the correct voltage setting.

Third, for outside use, you need to reduce the setting 18 to 30mV for every degree C above 25C (3 to 5 mV per cell), and likewise increase it for colder temperatures. Better-quality commercial units have automatic temperature compensation, and that's the best way to go. If you do used a fixed setting, try to keep the battery at a relatively steady, cool temperature (in the shade, not out in the hot sun) and select the charge voltage by ****battery**** temperature, not panel temperature.

Good luck and have a fun trip!

72,
--Tim (KROU)

Mark Schoonover <schoon@amgt.com>:

> I have a flexible 10 watt solar panel, and a couple of small 2AH
>SLAs hanging around. My idea is to have this fully charged prior to
>departure, as well as all the batteries for my portables. I was thinking of
>using the SLA to charge the 817/VX5 at night, while the solar panel can
>recharge the SLAs during the day when I'm out and about. That way I could
>just set up a solar charging station in my tent, and leave that heavier gear
>there. Now, I could spend about \$45 and get a real charge controller and
>it's all probably said and done. Since the SLAs will be float charged at
>about 12v, I was thinking of just using a 2 amp 12v regulator instead. Is
>the latter an OK thing to do??

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 01:06:16 -0400
From: Steven Weber <kd1jv@moose.ncia.net>
To: qrp-l@lehigh.edu
Subject: [150514] Re: NIMH Shelf Life?
Message-ID: <3.0.6.32.20030513010616.007adbd0@mailhost.ncia.net>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Speaking of NiMH batteries, I was in Wal-Mart today and got a four cell 1800 maH "AA" cell charger with 4 "free" batteries for \$9.68 or thereabouts. Plus a spare pack of 4 cells for another \$6.68. These are off brand "Digital" brand batteries and hopefully work as well as the name brands, which would cost twice as much for the same package. Found them in with the digital camara stuff.

72,

Steve, KD1JV

"Melt Solder"

White Mountains of New Hampshire

<http://www.qsl.net/kd1jv/>

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 08:06:25 +0100
From: "Leon Heller" <leon_heller@hotmail.com>
To: <myetsko@insydesw.com>,
"Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion" <qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [150515] Re: How to clean?
Message-ID: <Law15-DAV350iB4Je090000a465@hotmail.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="Windows-1252"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

----- Original Message -----

From: "Mike Yetsko" <myetsko@insydesw.com>
To: "Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion" <qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU>
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2003 3:41 AM
Subject: Re: How to clean?

> > Was digging in my closet, actually cleaning it out! Really, believe it
> or
> > not.
> >
> > Anyway I found a Heathkit HD-1250 Grid Dip Meter I didn't even know I
> had.
> > Upon opening it up its all there except the manual, looks to be in great
> > shape except for one small tiny thing. On the top lid there was black
> foam
> > which has pretty much rotted. I peeled it out but its left a sticky
> mess,
> > also some of this gey stuff is on the coils.
> >
> > Any idea on how to clean it out and get rid of it?

> >
> > Thanks
> >
> > Jerry - NR5A
>
> I have the same thing, but I caught my black foam AS it was going,
> not after, and it didn't get in the coils.
>
> Assuming you've tried the standard like alcohol, you might also try
> the stuff they sell to take up carpet tape from floors. It's a pretty
> robust solvent on the goo, but doesn't seem to hurt wood finishes.
> But always test it first! The stuff I got was called "Goof Off"
>
> Oh, it has some nasty stuff in it. Xylene for one.

Xylene has been defamed previously on this list. 8-)

I use it for cleaning resist off PCBs, and checked up on its toxicity: it isn't particularly toxic. Cellulose thinners (available from car spares shops) is xylene.

Leon

--

Leon Heller, G1HSM
leon_heller@hotmail.com
http://www.geocities.com/leon_heller

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 03:38:12 -0400
From: Dan Puckett <wd8aau@woh.rr.com>
To: Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion <qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [150516] Special Event Station K2BSA/8 16 - 18 May
Message-ID: <3EC0A0E4.BB18CA1A@woh.rr.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Hi Gang.

HamVention and FDIIM are not the only things going on in Dayton this weekend.
Scouting's Celebration of 100 Years of Flight Camporee will be at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. (Why does the local council always schedule something on HamVention Weekend?) Anyway, K2BSA/8 will be operating from 1700Z Friday

to 1300Z Sunday. The frequencies are 29.390, 21.360, 14.290, or 7.260 MHz.

Yes. I know. You may have to hunt for your microphone. Do it. That's a lot of young folks to show what fun we have. Give them a shout (or should that be a whisper?) this weekend. They'll have fun, so will you.

73,

Dan "Bash Bits"
WD8AAU
Troop 45, Dayton

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 04:22:10 -0400
From: "Mike Yetsko" <myetsko@insydesw.com>
To: <nr5a@rap.midco.net>,
"Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion" <qrp-l@lehigh.edu>
Subject: [150517] Re: How to clean?
Message-ID: <003e01c31928\$cad5c7a0\$0200a8c0@charter.net>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Another thing to try is Skin-So-Soft. It's supposed to work pretty good at getting off 'price labels' so it may work for this.

Mike

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 06:21:50 -0400
From: Bruce Muscolino <w6toy@erols.com>
To: kg6cyn@softhome.net
Cc: Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion <qrp-l@lehigh.edu>
Subject: [150518] Re: Bad Bands???
Message-ID: <3EC0C73E.A6DF7EFD@erols.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Trev,

Glad you worked some stations.

You know, there is no guarantee that comes along with the bands. As the position in the sunspot cycle changes, so do the bands. We have been getting lucky, the down periods have been getting shorter and smaller lately, but they still exist! This is why I used to comment on the number of 10 and 15 meter radios being recommended, a 40, 30, and 20 meter rig seemed a safer bet for the upcoming "dead" years. Just learn to be patient, the bands will come back, maybe in a few months, maybe in a few years! And don't forget, a CQ on a presumably dead band may get you some surprising results.

73

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 07:08:55 -0400
From: Jimmy Lee <jr1audio@bellsouth.net>
To: ae5x@qsl.net
Cc: Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion <qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [150519] Re: Norcal 40A + 5-turn pot - shoulda done it long ago.....
Message-ID: <3EC0D247.90A3C3E1@bellsouth.net>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

How about the Wilderness Radio pot? Anyone have experience using this pot?

John Harper AE5X wrote:

> I recently asked here on the list about anyone's experience installing a 3-,
> 5- and 10-turn pot in their Norcal 40. Dennis WB8WTU replied with a very
> detailed email recommending a 5-turn Bournes pot from Mouser. After
> exchanging a few emails with Dennis, I ordered the pot, received it a few
> days later and installed it. I've now been operating the rig for a few days
> and, man, what a difference! I've had my NC40 for several years now and am
> kicking myself for not having done this sooner. The improvement in
> "tunability" is amazing. I'll be posting a photo of how the pot fits into
> the rig on my website tomorrow.
>
> For those interested, here are the relevent Mouser part numbers & prices
> from Mouser:
> 3 turn Bourns 10K ohm - 652-3543S-1-103 at \$22.62
> 5 turn Bourns 10K ohm - 652-3545S-1-103 at \$23.30
>
> No, they ain't cheap and a lesser rig may not be worth it but the NC40 is a
> great rig that I believe warrants the expense. Despite being larger than the
> single-turn pot, the 5T mounts into the rig with no interference to or from
> any other components. Details/photos on website ma ana.

>
> Thanks for the recommendation Dennis.
>
> John Harper AE5X
> Outdoor QRP & 80-Meter DXing: <http://www.ae5x.com>

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 06:30:14 -0500
From: Jeffrey L Greer <wd4et@juno.com>
To: k7qo@earthlink.net
Cc: qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU
Subject: [150520] Re: SuSE GNU License
Message-ID: <20030513.063043.-931921.0.wd4et@juno.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

// ... group W bench.. 5x7 color glossy photographs

Ah, another Arlo Guthrie fan.

I recently purchased Suse 8.2 Pro for my class. I would be happy to burn a set of the CDs for the cause. Sorry, no DVD burner.

73, Jeff WD4ET

The best thing to hit the internet in years - Juno SpeedBand!
Surf the web up to FIVE TIMES FASTER!
Only \$14.95/ month - visit www.juno.com to sign up today!

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 07:59:48 -0400
From: Bill Coleman <aa4lr@arrl.net>
To: <k5di@zianet.com>,
"Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion" <qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [150521] Re: Antenna Tuner Step 1
Message-ID: <20030513120149.YXE1243.imf54bis.bellsouth.net@[192.168.0.20]>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="US-ASCII"

On 4/25/03 2:42 PM, Karl F. Larsen at k5di@zianet.com wrote:

> Now Conjugate Matching states that maximum power transfer occurs
> when the load impedance is the conjugate of the output impedance. Now the

>conjugate of $45 - j10$ is $45 + j10$. So the input impedance of the tuner is
>adjusted to be $45 + j10$ ohms when we have maximum power transfer. The coax
>will have a small VSWR which we can ignore if the coax is short. I will not
>prove Conjugate Matching because it involves a lot of math that is hard to
>put in an e-mail.

Actually, Conjugate Matching doesn't usually mention Maximum Power Transfer.

What it does talk about is resonance. Resonance is defined as that condition where all of the reactive components add up to $+j0$. By supplying the conjugate of the load impedance as presented at the end of the transmission line, a resonant condition is obtained.

In fact, this resonant condition is established all the way from the output of the matching device, and at every point along the feedline and into the load.

It's hard to talk about Maximum Power Transfer, because the impedance of the signal source (transmitter) isn't known.

Bill Coleman, AA4LR, PP-ASEL Mail: aa4lr@arrl.net
Quote: "Not within a thousand years will man ever fly!"
 -- Wilbur Wright, 1901

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 08:22:45 -0400
From: Brad Thompson <Brad.Thompson@valley.net>
To: nr5a@rap.midco.net,
 "Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion" <qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [150522] Re: How to clean?
Message-ID: <5.0.2.1.2.20030513081534.01fc0bd0@pop3.norton.antivirus>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

Hello--

I've had excellent results using a product called "Undu", which consists of heptane, to remove paper labels from paper (for example, price labels affixed to books' dust jackets). The liquid penetrates the paper, loosens the adhesive bond and then evaporates. You have to work fairly quickly as the adhesive will re-adhere to some degree when the solvent evaporates.

As with any chemical cleaner, you'll need to try the chemical on a sample of the foam to make sure that nothing odd happens to the coils.

On the downside, "Undu" costs approx. \$5.00 for a small bottle but since you use it a few drops at a time, it goes a long way. Staples and office supply stores stock "Undu", but it's sometimes with the cleaning supplies and sometimes next to the glue<g>.

73--

Brad AA1IP

Brad Thompson, Bookseller

P.S.: the new components- FS list is ready-- e-mail me for a copy.

At 08:20 PM 05/12/2003 -0600, Jerry Felts wrote:

>Was digging in my closet, actually cleaning it out! Really, believe it or >not.

>

>Anyway I found a Heathkit HD-1250 Grid Dip Meter I didn't even know I had. >Upon opening it up its all there except the manual, looks to be in great >shape except for one small tiny thing. On the top lid there was black foam >which has pretty much rotted. I peeled it out but its left a sticky mess, >also some of this gey stuff is on the coils.

>

>Any idea on how to clean it out and get rid of it?

>

>Thanks

>

>Jerry - NR5A

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 08:35:34 -0400

From: Alex <kr1st@amsat.org>

To: bshort4@cox.net

Cc: Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion <qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU>

Subject: [150523] Re: SSB QRP on 20m?

Message-ID: <3EC0E696.4EECBAF7@amsat.org>

MIME-version: 1.0

Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii

Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Hi Brian.

Brian Short wrote:

> I was out in the desert trying to finish some work before
> the heat sets in. Mid 90's this week, but 100's are just
> around the corner and the AC unit's fan won't start :(

If the fan hasn't run for a while (even just days) then the oil in the barings of the fan motor is forming thick drops preventing the fan from running. That's what I learned two months ago when my AC fan (the outside unit) didn't start. The AC guy just used a screwdriver to rotate the fan until it got started. After a few tries the fan slowly started to rotate and within a minute it was running at top rpms again.

I called the AC guy because I expected to hear a hum if the fan wouldn't start due to blockage of some sort. So I figured the motor was shot and needed a new one. Fortunately a few pokes with a screw driver was all what was needed. :)

> Anyway, I was playing with the FT-817 on 20m SSB
> today and worked a couple mobile stations while trying
> out my 5 element 20m monobander recently installed
> (actually put that up QRPTTF weekend instead).
>
> Is there a QRP SSB frequency on 20m I should try?

I envy your setup! They say 14.285 but I never heard any QRPers on it....or they don't identify as QRP, just like me. :)

> I usually operate CW (only), but QRP SSB was kinda
> fun, so I'd appreciate any pointers others may offer.

I operate QRP SSB from 160 to 10 meters and never have concentrated on any certain frequencies. That would perhaps help you you want a QRP to QRP contact I guess.

One thing I did notice on 20 meter PSK31 (14.070) is that sometimes the band seems totally dead late at night, but a CQ may result in a very nice solid DX contact in unexpected directions. Perhaps this happens on SSB, too, but I'm sure it's a bit harder.

73,
--Alex KR1ST

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 12:24:34 +0000
From: Jon Iza <iapizloj@bi.ehu.es>

To: qrp-1@lehigh.edu
Subject: [150524] PSpice Tutorials
Message-ID: <3EC0E402.5050507@bi.ehu.es>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii; format=flowed
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

>From The NSDL Scout Report for Math, Engineering, and Technology, Copyright
Internet Scout Project 1994-2003. <http://scout.wisc.edu/>

PSpice Tutorials
<http://rock.uta.edu/dillon/pspice/>

Spice is a language used to describe and model electrical circuits. A derivative of the language is PSpice, which is one of the most widely used tools for simulating circuit components and various parameters. The tutorials presented on this Web site of the University of Texas at Arlington provide a thorough overview of PSpice. Examples of proper syntax are given, beginning with the basic notation used to describe connectivity within a circuit. Various circuit elements are then introduced, and the process of performing transient analysis is given. The only concept that is not addressed in these tutorials is the specification of transistors, but this might be more advanced than the intended audience.

I think this may be of interest.
Be well,

jon, ea2sn

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 09:09:23 -0400
From: "Noyce, Bill" <william.noyce@hp.com>
To: <qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [150525] Re: RF Probe
Message-ID:
<6D6463F31027B14FB3B1FB094F2C74470347AF94@tayexc17.americas.cpqcorp.net>
content-class: urn:content-classes:message
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

> Can someone point me to the URL describing the RF Probe built in a =
miniture
> phone jack?

Here's one by Brice Hornback.

http://www.qrpp-i.com/KA8MAV_RF_Probe.htm

-- Bill, AB1AV

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 09:25:22 -0400
From: Frank Brickle <brickle@pobox.com>
To: Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion <qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [150526] Re: SSB QRP on 20m?
Message-ID: <3EC0F242.9050700@pobox.com>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii; format=flowed
Content-transfer-encoding: 7BIT

Alex wrote:

> ...They say 14.285 but I never heard any QRPers...

The HFpack calling frequencies (<http://www.hfpack.com>) are good places to hang out. Many low(er) power signals there, with people expecting them and looking out for them. On 20 it's 14342.5. Until recently most of the activity has been on 18157.5, but as the bands decline the action is migrating down, even to 40 and 80.

CW is encouraged and expected on any of the calling freqs. There's been sporadic PSK31 action on 30 as well.

Quite often there will be one or more QRO stations anchoring the activity, which helps to keep other stations from barging in and stepping on the weaker signals.

73
Frank
AB2KT

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 15:40:33 +0200
From: DK3RED@t-online.de (Ingo Meyer DK3RED)
To: qrp-l@lehigh.edu
Subject: [150527] hoot owls
Message-ID: <5.2.1.1.1.20030513154033.009f1870@pop.btx.dtag.de>

Mime-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

Hello hoot owls,

As ARCI member I want to compete in the hoot owl sprint on May 25. I found only the information from 8pm to midnight local time. But in the USA are more than one time zone and my local time is differently (grin). So what is the UTC for it?

72/73 de Ingo, DK3RED Don't forget: the fun is the power!

dk3red@t-online.de <http://www.t-online.de/~dk3red>

DL-QRP-AG #824 <http://www.dl-qrp-ag.de>

QRP ARCI #11295 <http://www.qrparci.org>

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 09:51:03 -0400

From: "Lee Mairs" <lairs@direcway.com>

To: "Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion" <qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU>

Subject: [150528] Re: How to clean?

Message-ID: <0c7501c31956\$b61531b0\$3b6d020a@boomer>

MIME-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: text/plain;

charset="iso-8859-1"

Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Use naphtha. It is great for removing gooey stuff.

72 de Lee

km4yy/8

> > Was digging in my closet, actually cleaning it out! Really, believe it

> or

> > not.

> >

> > Anyway I found a Heathkit HD-1250 Grid Dip Meter I didn't even know I

> had.

> > Upon opening it up its all there except the manual, looks to be in great

> > shape except for one small tiny thing. On the top lid there was black

> foam

> > which has pretty much rotted. I peeled it out but its left a sticky

> mess,

> > also some of this gey stuff is on the coils.

> >

> > Any idea on how to clean it out and get rid of it?

> >

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 06:51:25 -0700
From: Bob Nielsen <nielsen@oz.net>
To: Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion <qrp-1@lehigh.edu>
Subject: [150529] Re: SSB QRP on 20m?
Message-ID: <20030513135125.GB21250@n7xy.net>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Disposition: inline

Some AC fans have a motor-start capacitor. These can easily fail and require replacement (the same problem applies to antenna rotators).

73,

Bob, N7XY (no longer in the desert, so I don't need AC anymore!)

On Tue, May 13, 2003 at 08:35:34AM -0400, Alex wrote:

> Hi Brian.

>

> Brian Short wrote:

>

> > I was out in the desert trying to finish some work before
> > the heat sets in. Mid 90's this week, but 100's are just
> > around the corner and the AC unit's fan won't start :(

>

> If the fan hasn't run for a while (even just days) then the oil in the
> barings of the fan motor is forming thick drops preventing the fan from
> running. That's what I learned two months ago when my AC fan (the
> outside unit) didn't start. The AC guy just used a screwdriver to rotate
> the fan until it got started. After a few tries the fan slowly started to
> rotate and within a minute it was running at top rpms again.

>

> I called the AC guy because I expected to hear a hum if the fan wouldn't
> start due to blockage of some sort. So I figured the motor was shot and
> needed a new one. Fortunately a few pokes with a screw driver was all
> what was needed. :)

>

> > Anyway, I was playing with the FT-817 on 20m SSB
> > today and worked a couple mobile stations while trying
> > out my 5 element 20m monobander recently installed
> > (actually put that up QRPTTF weekend instead).

> >

> > Is there a QRP SSB frequency on 20m I should try?

>

> I envy your setup! They say 14.285 but I never heard any QRPers on
> it....or they don't identify as QRP, just like me. :)
>
> > I usually operate CW (only), but QRP SSB was kinda
> > fun, so I'd appreciate any pointers others may offer.
>
> I operate QRP SSB from 160 to 10 meters and never have concentrated on
> any certain frequencies. That would perhaps help you you want a QRP to
> QRP contact I guess.
>
> One thing I did notice on 20 meter PSK31 (14.070) is that sometimes the
> band seems totally dead late at night, but a CQ may result in a very
> nice solid DX contact in unexpected directions. Perhaps this happens on
> SSB, too, but I'm sure it's a bit harder.
>
> 73,
> --Alex KR1ST

--

Bob Nielsen, N7XY
Bainbridge Island, WA
IOTA NA-065, USI WA-028S

n7xy@n7xy.net
<http://www.n7xy.net>

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 10:06:50 -0400
From: "Noyce, Bill" <william.noyce@hp.com>
To: <qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU>, <NB6M@aol.com>
Subject: [150530] SMK-1 mod for TX range & chirp
Message-ID:
<6D6463F31027B14FB3B1FB094F2C744703377D7E@tayexc17.americas.cpqcorp.net>
content-class: urn:content-classes:message
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

I've been studying the mods for the SMK-1, and will
probably do the Easy One Watt Mod
<http://www.norcalqrp.com/smk1/nb6mmod.htm>
and the mod for "Extend the SMK-1's TX tuning range,
And clean up the TX note".
<http://www.norcalqrp.com/smk1/smkvxo/nb6msmkvxo.htm>

There's one step in the latter that had me confused:

"Move C18 so that it connects between the rear pad for
C18 and the left pad (closest to Q2) for C17. This is

necessary because the output of the oscillator is now taken from the emitter instead of the collector."

Can anyone confirm that this should read
"Move C20 so that ..." ?

Thanks,
-- Bill AB1AV

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 09:07:01 -0500
From: "Mark Andrews" <KE4IOF@KE4IOF.com>
To: "Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion" <qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [150531] Re: How to clean?
Message-ID: <002d01c31958\$ed589d90\$146f640a@MarkAndrews>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

The first thing I try is WD-40. It's great for removing the glue from permanent labels so it may work on this as well; plus it will dry without leaving greasy mess.

Mark, KE4IOF

Mark A. Andrews

"You can't reason a person out of a position that the person wasn't reasoned into in the first place"

>
> Yeah - baby oil!
>
> I've used WD-40 and 3-In-1 oil for that, too, but baby oil smells better.
>

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 09:10:23 -0500
From: "George, W5YR" <w5yr@att.net>
To: <JamesDuffey@comcast.net>,
"Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion" <qrp-1@lehigh.edu>
Subject: [150532] Re: Ground Radial Systems
Message-ID: <007f01c31959\$65d90110\$0401a8c0@PS>
MIME-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

As usual, Jim is spot on with his advice and info.

Just thought I would add that I did my first radial field with an edger, as he described, a few years back, using 60 aluminum wire buried radials,

Big mistakes: (1) my edger had a warped blade and cut a trench about 1/2 wide or more which later had to be filled with fresh soil; and (2) the alkaline soil here managed to digest the bare aluminum wire in less than two years.

So, the new radial field comprises 18 lengths of #12 insulated stranded wire, each 25 ft long. This combination came from cleaning out Lowe's of all such wire they had on sale: 450 ft. I vowed to use insulated wire this time to avoid soil corrosion.

Also, for the first time, I used the on-ground approach of just stretching the radials tightly against the sod, securing the far ends with long nails into the soil, and then fastening each wire to the soil every few feet, or closer if needed, with U-shaped "staples" about 6 " long made from #14 solid wire.

The result is a radial field that is now virtually invisible under the spring grass growth, especially since I used green wire (which is why it was on sale!), and which required a minimum of labor to install.

Sorry, Jim, but my "small children" ceased being that over 30 years ago, so the Old Man had to do all the bending and nailing, etc. But it was much simpler than my first effort with the edger.

That was a unique problem - a proper edger in good competent sod will cut a thin groove barely wide enough for the wire - so don't read this as a put-down to the edger approach. The radials work the same whether laying on the surface or residing an inch below the surface in a little groove. For me, it was just easier to do the surface installation this time.

The location of my Butternut HF-9V vertical in the yard limited me to 25 ft radials. However, back in the 70's Jerry Seveck, W2FMI, demonstrated that radials of that length were quite effective on most HF bands. His data show that with 18 twenty-five foot radials on 40 meters, the antenna efficiency is about 80%. Results on 20 meters are almost identical. Since those are my most-often-used

bands for the vertical, I am content with that level of performance in return for the labor and materials involved.

Incidentally, in all of Jerry's studies, the ends of the radials were "terminated" with long spikes (6" to 18" long) driven into the ground. I used 6" zinc-plated nails.

Jerry's work in this area is re-printed from the original QST articles in appendices to his "Building and Using Baluns and Ununs."

73/72, George

Amateur Radio W5YR - the Yellow Rose of Texas

Fairview, TX 30 mi NE of Dallas in Collin county EM13QE

"In the 57th year and it just keeps getting better!"

<mailto:w5yr@att.net>

----- Original Message -----

From: "James R. Duffey" <JamesDuffey@comcast.net>

To: "Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion" <qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU>

Sent: Monday, May 12, 2003 8:59 PM

Subject: Ground Radial Systems

> Brent - It sounds like you have a good radial system planned for your
> vertical.
>
> Insulated or not insulated wire does not matter for radials. If you have a
> surplus outlet around, they often sell copper wire by the pound which is
> usually the cheapest way to buy it. The next cheapest way is to buy
> household wire at a builders center like Lowe's or Home Depot. Diameter
> doesn't matter much either, although the really skinny stuff can become
> difficult to handle.
>
> Radials are most effective when they are spaced 0.02 to 0.05 wavelengths
> apart (depending on the ground conductivity) at the circumference of the
> radial field. Any larger spacing and the currents induced in the ground
have
> dissipated and they won't be collected. Any closer and you are gathering
> ground current that could have been gathered with a single radial.
>
> So a good way to space radials is to pick the band you operate the most on
> and space the radials 0.02 to 0.05 wavelengths at the circumference of the
> radial field. This will accommodate the variation in length of radials in
a
> rectangular back yard. Don't worry if you have some short and some long
> radials. If you use the above rule of thumb, they will be effective.

>
> The easiest way to put radials down is to use a motorized sidewalk grass
> edger. You can rent them. If you don't want to do that, you can use a
manual
> edger. Small children are a big help.
>
> I hope that this helps. - Dr. Megacycle KK6MC/5
> -----
> James R. Duffey KK6MC/5
> Cedar Crest NM 87009 DM65
>

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 10:20:44 -0400
From: Alex <kr1st@amsat.org>
To: mgoins@usa.net
Cc: Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion <qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [150533] Re: Prices of gear Was: [Safety]
Message-ID: <3EC0FF3C.CC1326FD@amsat.org>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

A few months I bought this book from KG6JTB which might be helpful in
situations like Mike describes:

<http://www.kg6jtb.freewebspace.com/>

This book contains tons of listings of the going rate of various gear
(radios, antennas, keyers, power supplies, antiques, just released, you
name it) from different manufacturers in various conditions. It uses the
Collins Collectors

Association's grading scales which makes it very easy to judge the
condition of the gear you have and then lookup the (fair market) price
for it. The book uses actual sales prices.

The book sells for \$12 at Universal Radio and perhaps other places, but
you can save yourself 4 bucks by ordering from the author himself.
Direct, it's \$8 which includes shipping and handling. DX is \$8 + \$6 I
think.

A list of all your gear and the latest copy of this book will be greatly
appreciated by your XYL or other family when you're attending the Big
Hamfest, as someone called it on here.

It's also a great asset at hamfests and may save you a bundle of money.
It easily separates the greedy dealers from the fair ones. :)

For the record, I have no connections whatsoever with KG6JTB.

73,
--Alex KR1ST

Michael Goins wrote:

> Another local ham, w5hns, and I long ago agreed to take care of selling each
> other's station, if, and when, it becomes necessary. Not all the XYL's know
> what the gear is actually worth, and there's no sense it it being given away
> (unless that's what you want to do).

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 10:02:02 -0500
From: "Dennis Payton" <dpayton@fwi.com>
To: <qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [150534] Re: NIMH Shelf Life? (W3VVN Response)
Message-ID: <00c901c31960\$9d5bf4b0\$30a854d1@6300us>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Thanks to all who responded to my question about how long NIMH can be stored. A couple fellows recommended Ken Stuart, W3VVN as an authority, so I found his email address and emailed him. He generously gave me a thorough response and permission to post it.

.....
>From Ken:

"Nickel cadmium and nickel metal hydride cells are not at all bothered by being left sitting with zero terminal voltage, that is, fully discharged. Since there is no voltage in the cell, there is minimal chemical activity, and the cell's lifetime is extended. In fact, very large NiCd's and sealed cells for spacecraft use are often shipped and stored in a discharged condition with their positive and negative terminals shorted together.

The idea of never letting them run all the way down is germane to multi-cell batteries. There is a probability of reverse charging of a cell or two in a battery during deep discharge, and cell reversal will shorten the life and reduce the capacity of that cell. This can't happen with a single cell and a load since there is no mechanism for reverse charging. A good example of a cell being fully discharged and recharged repeatedly without a problem is

the battery/solarcell operated garden and walkway lights sold by Home Depot and lots of other stores. The cells in these devices last for years with over a thousand charge/discharge cycles.

My recommendation to you would be to check the voltage of each cell without applying any charge beforehand. Any cells that show zero voltage may have a high self discharge or may be internally shorted. Applying a charging current of ten or twenty milliamperes for a minute or two will show which ones are just fully discharged and which are truly shorted. Toss out those which do not respond to the low current charge. Those cells which do respond may be okay.

Finally, for long term storage it is always recommended that the cells be kept cool. A basement is the best, unless you have a shelf or two in your refrigerator available. Freezing the cells is not recommended since the internal structure can be damaged by swelling. My wife continuously tells her friends how I have confiscated a section of her fridge shelf for my battery stocks - for some reason, she doesn't seem to be too happy about it, hi hi.

When you are ready to place the cells back into service, or decide to sell them, give all the cells a good charging at a low rate (about C/10). Give them at least sixteen hours of charge, and twenty four hours is okay. After charging, check each cell's terminal voltage about once a week for several months (assuming that you have the time, of course). Those cells which are the first to drop below 1.0 volt are the cells with the worst self-discharge. Although usable, these cells should be designated for applications where time of charge retention is not an issue.

The information above is equally applicable to both NiCd and NiMH cells. Also, since the cells you are mentioning are NiMH, the charge retention time will not be as long as NiCD."

.....

Many thanks to Ken for taking the time to share his expertise!

Denny Payton N9JXY

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 08:30:52 -0700
From: "Doug Hendricks" <ki6ds@dph.dpol.net>
To: <qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [150535] Re: Dayton Weather Report and a Warning about a couple of blokes.
Message-ID: <08d401c31964\$a356bae0\$4a0b0d0a@dph.dpol.net>

MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Guys, kudos to Dan "Union Gap" Puckett for another outstanding Dayton Weather Report. This is Dan's 9th consecutive year giving the report, and he hasn't missed yet. (Giving the report, no comment on his accuracy, grin). Hope you all have a good time. Take your umbrellas, trash bags, and sunblock. A hat is an absolute necessity. If you pay asking prices outdoors in the flea market, you are a lollypop!! Don't do it, as it may be hazardous to the health of the seller. He just might have a stoke if you pay him his asking price without asking for a discount.

Note that Tony Fishpool and Graham Firth will be walking around this weekend. They will come up and use this fake British accent (I do have to admit it is pretty good, especially Tony's) and see if you will give them a foreign friends discount. They act like they are poor and came all the way from England and can't afford to pay full price. Guys, don't fall for that old ruse. Think about it, if they could afford the plane tickets over here, they can pay full price, grin. (Note: this is meant to be a humorous posting and designed to bring a smile to your face!). If Tony or Graham ask for the Foreign Friends Discount, tell them that you will give them a break and not charge them the export tax. 72, Doug

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 11:54:59 EDT
From: NB6M@aol.com
To: william.noyce@hp.com, qrp-1@lehigh.edu
Subject: [150536] Re: SMK-1 mod for TX range & chirp
Message-ID: <15f.204c60b0.2bf26f53@aol.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="US-ASCII"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Hi Bill, and All,

Yep, you are right, that should have read "move "C20".

In my 20 Meter SMK-1 mod, I used 6 Volts regulated taken from pin 1 of U3, rather than add an additional Zener, 220 Ohm resistor, and .1 cap as shown in the Mod diagram for "Extend...", to supply regulated voltage to the tuning pot and still had plenty of tuning range, so you might try that..

Also, I would not bother adding the Zener and 220 Ohm resistor off the collector of Q2, as it ended up contributing nothing to stability.

Have a look at the TX Oscillator circuit from the "SMK-1 on 20 Meters" article for further clarification on how to do the mod with fewer parts.

Good luck with the Mod, it really does add to the "usability" of the SMK-1.

72

Wayne NB6M

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 09:01:55 -0700
From: "Andreas Junge - N6NU" <n6nu@arrl.net>
To: "Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion" <qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [150537] RE: Bad Bands???
Message-ID: <HPEPKMGBOBPNPFCOKLJGIEJLD0AA.n6nu@arrl.net>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="us-ascii"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

--- snip -----

> And don't forget, a CQ on a presumably dead band may get
> you some surprising results.
>

... and do not forget the beacons!

73 de N6NU

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 16:31:36 GMT
From: hamjoel@juno.com
To: qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU
Subject: [150538] THE ANTENNA IS COMING DOWN
Message-ID: <20030513.093149.15136.16637@webmail06.lax.unttd.com>
Content-Type: text/plain

High y all

I been thinking...friends is hard to come by and I don t want to lose any friends over this power line thingie... it s not acceptable practice, I m taking a calculated risk.. we all kneaux that...regardless of how well I think I have the situation under control in these particular circumstances...

Now, what u is asking me to do is gonna put me off the air... and with an antenna I have dreamed about for a long time...however, it an t worth alienating friends for...so I tell u what I will do and ask ur help with.

I will take the antenna down, retire the ant farm, pull the rope from the trees and take up mobiling or sumthin like fishing, what an t over a house drop... heck, I ll even mail (you pay shipping) the antenna to anyone what wants it... no sense in letting is gather rust...

Iffin u guys would check into and find out what the hell is going on with the qq... for me... not asking u to do anything, just find out what is going on here...and let me kneaux...(direct e-mail)

I think something stinks here... first I get this outrageous e mail from some 0, (I think he was a 0, don t kneaux,... remember, or care)...suggesting that the qq editor was avoiding me and looking for a chance to drop me like a hot potato.. (All he (THE EDITOR) had to do was ask or tell me no meaux, heck, I think I ve met the guy once, real nice fellow.) and- for about three articles I can t or don t get a response from the editor... now, all of a sudden... the editor writes and demands a retraction of an antenna article.... (THE ARTICLE)it don t say whare u gonna hang the dang thing.... it just describes the antenna I use...two elements... one 6% shorter than the other... spaced 14 feet apart and hung in the trees...what s retractable about that? Dats why I told him he could write the retraction, he kneauxs what he wants to say ...all I can say is don t hang it over power lines, like I did...

I can understand pointing out that the pictures show a house drop line whare thair should not- art- to- be one... and I noted that u noted that... and I admitted, it is against standard amateur practice to do that...so why condemn the whole article? my wife, (college professor)...thinks it s an attempt to discredit my writing and or me.) And I m inclined to agree...

So, iffing u guys would take the trouble to find the worm in the woodpile and let me kneaux what s going on...or really happened, I would really appreciate it , the antenna farm heah is history, I ll take it down this Thursday, may 14, 03...my uneducated, misspelt work...be in bacon bits, out of controversy, with folk what have a sense of humor along with great radio know how ...and I ll still have my friends what won t be worried bout that piece of wire... it will be worth it to me, to kneaux what s happening heah..something is dreadfully different than when I started writing for the qq...

And I spent years (yes really, years) trying to get my writing into the quarterly and now this sudden sequence of events... hmmm

Thank you, I apreciate ur concern and will do as ah said ah would... it s time for a qq checkup...and ah needs to find a spot (safe spot) to put a wire so ah can ncs on wed nites...

(perhaps a temporary connection to a mobile ant)

Thanks, I ll get the knife and get ready to let the ant fall... wouldn t it be sumthin iffing it went up in a ball of fire.... I ll be sure and have hot dogs ready to roast and bread and mustard... :-) Firemen get hungry fast...

thank you and sry for the trouble...

U can e-mail me direct iffing u find out what really happened... no sense in keeping this on the list... life goes on...thairs radios to build and fish to catch...

KE1LA JOEL
IN MAINE
FREEZIN

The best thing to hit the internet in years - Juno SpeedBand!
Surf the web up to FIVE TIMES FASTER!
Only \$14.95/ month - visit www.juno.com to sign up today!

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 13:39:01 -0400
From: Michael Babineau <michael.babineau@sympatico.ca>
To: qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU
Cc: aa1qj@earthlink.net, Bruce Muscolino <w6toy@erols.com>
Subject: [150539] re: Ground Radials
Message-ID: <C8E10ED7-8569-11D7-8EFF-00039309268A@sympatico.ca>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII; format=flowed
Mime-Version: 1.0 (Apple Message framework v552)
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Wow .. amazing timing.

I just happened to have my "ARRL Vertical Antennas Classics" open this morning and I was reading an article called "Radial Systems for Ground Mounted Vertical Antennas" by Brian Edward N2MF from the June 1985 QST. I believe that this is the article that Bruce has made reference to. The author has a number of graphs showing gain vs radial number and length for various earth conductivities. Also there is a graph showing "Sufficient radial length" for a given number of radial wires ... meaning it doesn't do you much good to have radials longer than the graphed value when you are only using X radials.

To hit the high points, Bruce is pretty much right on the money! At about 16 to 20 radials, there is negligible additional gain to be had by exceeding 1/8 wavelength for radial length. (ie 16 to 20 1/8 wavelength radials will achieve between .1 and .2 db of the maximum theoretical gain achievable with only 16 to 20 radials). It is not until you get to about 30 to

40 radials that 1/4 wavelength radials can be justified and between 100 and 120 radials having a length approaching 1/2 wavelength will improve things.

Michael VE3WMB

P.S. The truth be known, I was actually reading this article aloud to my 2 month old baby.

Remember that scene from the movie "Three Men and a Baby" when Tom Selleck is reading the baby Sports Illustrated Magazine? "Its not what you read to them its the tone of your voice that matters".

She also very much enjoyed the latest edition of QRP Quarterly so hats off to the new editor!

>From: Bruce Muscolino <w6toy@erols.com>
>To: aa1qj@earthlink.net
>Cc: Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion <qrp-l@lehigh.edu>
>Subject: [150400] Re: Ground Radial Systems
>Some years ago, in the 80's I think, QST ran an article on radial
>systems. The author compared radial systems made up of resonant length
>under a vertical to a set of shortened radials. I seem to remember the
>point where there was no difference was about 20 radials of 20 foot
>length. I don't remember the exact numbers, but a query to League
>Headquarters would probably get you a copy of the article.

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 13:58:38 -0400
From: Michael Babineau <michael.babineau@sympatico.ca>
To: qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU
Cc: bshort4@cox.net
Subject: [150540] re: Ground Radial Systems
Message-ID: <8610F174-856C-11D7-8EFF-00039309268A@sympatico.ca>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII; format=flowed
Mime-Version: 1.0 (Apple Message framework v552)
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Brian et al :

See my earlier post to QRP-L on this topic.

There is another article in "ARRL Vertical Antenna Classics" that may be the one that Brian is referring to.

It is titled "Elevated Vertical Antenna Systems" by Al Christman, KB8I and it was originally in the August 1988 QST. This is an excellent article that compares elevated radial of varying numbers and lengths to their ground mounted counterparts. It is quite amazing the improvement that can be had by elevating your vertical antenna system by a few feet.

For those interested in this topic I would also recommend reading what Les Moxon, G6XN has to say on this topic in his awesome book "HF Antennas for All Locations". In a nutshell, he recommends doing away with conventional ground mounted radials systems in favor of a shortened elevated tuned counterpoise (2 short radials of about 1/12 Wavelength) each for extremely high efficiency).

Michael VE3WMB

>From: Brian Short <bshort4@cox.net>
>To: "Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion" <qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU>
>Subject: [150416] Re: Ground Radial Systems

>I don't have the reference handy, but there was a paper concerning the >comparison of ground radials vs resonant elevated radials.

>I would think that ground conductivity is a major factor in any study of
>ground radials. Here, in Arizona, I set up antennas in the desert where
>there is literally just sand (very poor ground conductivity). For that
>reason, I have gone with elevated radials for 80m and 160m.

>Tom of Force 12 spoke at Ft Tuthill a couple years ago about radials, >antennas, etc. (This was not a "QRP" session, as such.) Anyway, his >experience has shown that elevated radials should be above ground >as follows:

>160m -- 16 ft
>80m -- 8 ft
>40m -- 4 ft
>... you see the pattern
>30m -- 3 ft

>I use 4 elevated radials, but have tried just 2. The improvements

>above 4 are small. Above 8, very small!

>There was originally a paper by a broadcast engineer examining the
>whole elevated vs ground mounted issue.

>I would think any comprehensive examination of radials would take
>this practical research into consideration.

>Ground conductivity in my mind is a huge factor, but I live in a
desert,
>not a salt marsh.

>Sorry that I don't have the actual reference.

>Brian

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 14:41:48 -0400
From: Michael Babineau <michael.babineau@sympatico.ca>
To: QRP-L@lehigh.edu
Subject: [150541] Re: SuSE Linux for Free
Message-ID: <8E165A51-8572-11D7-8EFF-00039309268A@sympatico.ca>
Mime-Version: 1.0 (Apple Message framework v552)
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII; format=flowed
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

My \$0.02 cents worth.

For any of you who might ever be considering buying CDs for a
commercial distribution
of Linux for convenience (as opposed to downloading via the internet)
it can sometimes
be a very good deal to purchase one of the excellent Linux Books that
actually include
the distribution on CD.

For instance a year or two ago I bought the REDHAT 7.2 Bible that
included a complete
distribution of RH 7.2 on CDs that came with the book, for less than
the cost of the
packaged RH 7.2 Linux distribution from REDHAT. I needed a good
reference anyway!

I have also seen some excellent deals on slightly older Linux
distribution sets on
Ebay (do you really care whether you have version X.y or X.z ?)

For anyone who is reasonably computer literate with a decent sized hard drive and a copy of Partition Magic, it is surprisingly easy to set your PC up in dual boot mode Windows/Linux so that you can enjoy the best of both worlds. There are some excellent Ham related programs for Linux, including logging etc which will run very well on some older PCs with limited RAM. This is a good use for an older PC. There is even a decent logging program that you can put onto a floppy that includes a very small bootable Linux kernel that will allow it to run it on a older low-end laptop without Linux installed on its hard drive ... possibly a good fit for your Field day logging needs.

If you have ever worked with any flavor of Unix you will feel right at home with Linux.

Cheers,

Michael VE3WMB

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 14:41:11 -0400
From: Bruce Muscolino <w6toy@erols.com>
To: Michael Babineau <michael.babineau@sympatico.ca>
Cc: qrp-l@lehigh.edu, aa1qj@earthlink.net
Subject: [150542] Re: Ground Radials
Message-ID: <3EC13C47.6341D4B9@erols.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Wow, that is exactly the article I was thinking about. Of course I read it in the original. I seem to remember my favourite boss, WA6IVC went to work at the League about the same time and recommended it to me! Yes, that's the one, and a darned good one it is!

73

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 14:48:05 -0400
From: Bruce Muscolino <w6toy@erols.com>

To: michael.babineau@sympatico.ca
Cc: Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion <qrp-1@lehigh.edu>
Subject: [150543] Re: Ground Radial Systems
Message-ID: <3EC13DE5.48AF9DE4@erols.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

It seems to me that elevated radial systems really start to make your antenna into a ground plane rather than a vertical. The largest effect that elevating radials a few feet would seem to have is elimination of poor quality ground. Of course it also complicates mowing the grass!

73

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 15:51:34 -0400 (Eastern Standard Time)
From: "Pastor-kc1di" <elbc2@gwi.net>
To: <michael.babineau@sympatico.ca>,
"Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion" <qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [150544] Re: SuSE Linux for Free
Message-ID: <3EC14CC6.000006.02020@DOR>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: Text/Plain
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

I'm Running Redhat 8.0 at the moment and I concure with Michael that it =
is
well worth the price to buy a reference manual with your distribution.. B=
ut
if you just want a cheap way to try out Linux there are severl Linux CD
place on the net that have them starting at about \$4.99 + Shipping check
out =0D

<http://www.easylinuxcds.com/index.shtml>=0D

=0D

or=0D

=0D

<http://almostfreelinux.com/shop/>=0D

=0D

I run Linux on my ham computer and use X-log and Kpsk to run psk works gr=
eat

and love it..=0D

73 Dave kc1di =0D

=0D

=0D

-----Original Message-----=0D

=0D

From: michael.babineau@sympatico.ca=0D
Date: Tuesday, May 13, 2003 15:01:12=0D
To: Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion=0D
Subject: Re: SuSE Linux for Free=0D

=0D
My \$0.02 cents worth.=0D
=0D

For any of you who might ever be considering buying CDs for a =0D
commercial distribution=0D
of Linux for convenience (as opposed to downloading via the internet) =0D
it can sometimes=0D
be a very good deal to purchase one of the excellent Linux Books that =0D
actually include=0D
the distribution on CD.=0D
=0D

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the cost of the=0D
packaged RH 7.2 Linux distribution from REDHAT. I needed a good =0D
reference anyway!=0D
=0D

I have also seen some excellent deals on slightly older Linux =0D
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=0D

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very small bootable=0D
Linux kernel that will allow it to run it on a older low-end laptop =0D
without Linux installed on=0D
its hard drive ... possibly a good fit for your Field day logging needs.=0D
=0D

If you have ever worked with any flavor of Unix you will feel right at =0D
home with Linux.=0D
=0D

Cheers,=0D
=0D

Michael VE3WMB=0D

=0D
=0D
=2E=20

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 15:58:29 -0400
From: Ray Sills <raysills@1stconnect.com>
To: njqrp@njqrp.org
Cc: QRP list <qrp-l@lehigh.edu>
Subject: [150545] Re: [NJQRP] AS-2259 NVIS Antennas Available New (NOT Cheap)
Message-ID: <449B1F13-857D-11D7-9715-003065EAB9EC@1stconnect.com>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII; format=flowed
Mime-Version: 1.0 (Apple Message framework v552)
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Hi Gang:

The same website has some interesting goodies in the Misc. Neat Stuff page.

I saw one of those A/B switches in what appeared to be a sturdy case for \$6.

There also was a motor driven antenna tuner variable capacitor assembly for a modest price.. \$14, I think.

On Monday, May 12, 2003, at 10:28 AM, Jon MacMilliam wrote:

> AS-2259's are available surplus at the following URL:

>

>

> <http://www.american-milspec.com/p1104.html>

>

> \$195.00

>

> The \$12 homebrew is still cheaper.

>

> Jon

> W2MC

>

>

>

>

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: Michael Melland <w9wis@charter.net>

> Date: Monday, May 12, 2003 10:17 am

> Subject: [NJQRP] AS-2259 NVIS Antennas Available New (NOT Cheap)

>

>> I located a manufacturer (sub contractor) of military antennas

>> called R.A.
>> Miller Industries in Michigan. I inquired if perhaps the AS-2259 NVIS
>> Antenna was available to the public.
>>
>> I received a reply this morning that the antenna is available to
>> the public
>> for \$847.00. No indication if this includes a base mount or
>> not.... I
>> suspect not.
>>
>> Makes my \$12 homebrew version look pretty good ... hihi.
>>
>> Mike
>> --
>> Michael Melland, W9WIS
>> Winneconne, Wisconsin USA EN54pc
>> qrp-l #1656 - qrparci # 9875 - iparc #252
>> ars #1075 - <http://webpages.charter.net/w9wis/>
>> --
>> Michael Melland, W9WIS
>> Winneconne, Wisconsin USA EN54pc
>> qrp-l #1656 - qrparci # 9875 - iparc #252
>> ars #1075 - <http://webpages.charter.net/w9wis/>
>>
>>
>> ===== NJ QRP Club Mailing List =====
>> To unsubscribe from this list, send email to listserver@applegate.org
>> and put the text "unsubscribe njqrp" in the message. To post a
>> message to the list, send email to njqrp@njqrp.org.
>>
> <w2mc.vcf>
73 de Ray
K2ULR
FN20t1

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 20:44:45 GMT
From: psschwarz@kellnet.com
To: "Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion" <qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [150546] Re: NIMH Shelf Life? (W3VVN Response)
Message-ID: <20030513204445.25101.qmail@mail.kellnet.com>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; format=flowed; charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

To both Dennis and Ken, thanks for the valuable information. Even a chemist

learns something new everyday. :-)

Patrick...KB8RTZ..."I got a hair cut, now I need a(nother) real job"

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 16:34:09 -0400
From: "w8diz" <w8diz@fpqrp.com>
To: "Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion" <qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [150547] Toroids at Dayton
Message-ID: <009b01c3198f\$05347ed0\$b8cf1d41@cinci.rr.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="Windows-1252"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Hi Gang,

Had to get my kitsandparts.com AD in here :-)

If you're looking for toroids at DAYTON,
visit me at site #2672. Here is a map...
<http://partsandkits.com/dayton03.html>

I'll also be at FDIW selling donuts and RF parts
for all you homebrewers.

Hope you all have a good trip.

PS: will be monitoring 145.72 simplex.

72 & "oo's" - Dieter (DIZ) Gentzow - W8DIZ - Loveland, Ohio
Clermont County - EM79uf - near Cincinnati; 39:13:05N 84:18:18W
RIG:multiPIG+ ANT:470 FT Horiz Loop <http://kitsandparts.com>

Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 16:40:43 -0400
From: "Tom Curtola" <tcurtola@rogers.com>
To: "Low Power Amateur Radio Discussion" <qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [150548] QRP - Is My Analogy Correct
Message-ID: <001c01c3198f\$ecc5a760\$54103141@bloor.phub.net.cable.rogers.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Friends often wonder what I see in operating a radio to talk to a stranger thousands of miles away, when all I have to do is pick up a cell phone and call anyone I know at an equally far distance.

I tried to explain to them that it is more about the technical challenge of using the most basic of equipment that can be hand built, without reliance on a huge infrastructure, such as the cell phone industry. More importantly, I tried to explain in terms of wonderment, just what we are accomplishing.

In explaining to them the accomplishments of QRP, I made the analogy that the 1 foot by 1 foot, 5 watt solar panel I use to keep my battery charged, to run the little radio, is akin to using a 4 inch square mirror to reflect the sunlight back up to the atmosphere where an ionized layer, being about the equivalent as roughly polished metal reflects back down my mirror light to a person a couple of thousands of miles away, and he is able to see this reflection. That's how sensitive the receiver is at the other end and how little power is needed at my end.

After thinking about it in those terms, I too am awe struck. And we're not even talking about QRPP or microwatts that some people use.

Is my analogy way off? I figured 4 inch square mirror of light energy being transmitted. This is based on the 1 square foot solar panel at 5 watts being only about 15% efficient. This solar panel just keeps the battery topped up as my transceiver uses about the same amount of energy out while transmitting 2 - 3 watts.

Now, I just use a wire antenna, which isn't very directional like the mirror analogy, so it's even more geewhiz than I explained in that regard. Plus the ionosphere is probably way less efficient in reflecting than roughly polished metal, due to losses getting up, some absorption, and coming back down again.

I hope I'm not way off-base in my analogy.

Tom
VA3TY
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Date: Tue, 13 May 2003 14:26:57 -0700
From: "Doug Hendricks" <ki6ds@dph.dpol.net>
To: <qrp-1@Lehigh.EDU>
Subject: [150549] Best Route from Amarillo to Dallas (Arlington)

Message-ID: <094701c31996\$623f24c0\$4a0b0d0a@dph.dpol.net>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

I am driving to Hamcom in June, and I was wondering the best route to take from Amarillo to Arlington. Is anyone familiar with the route? I need to know about how long it will take driving 65 - 70 mph. Thanks, Doug

End of QRP-L Digest 2919

